

WASHINGTON – Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, issued the following statement in reaction to Northrop Grumman’s decision not to submit a bid in the KC-X tanker competition.

“I am deeply disappointed that Northrop Grumman was unable to submit a bid for the KC-X tanker program. Frankly, I am outraged at the Defense Department’s bungling of this contract for what is now the third time.

“I wrote President Obama last month and warned him the Pentagon was headed down a path that would kill the chance of competition in the tanker program. Now that is precisely what has happened. This president has adopted a strong policy against the use of sole-source contracts, acknowledging those contracts are... ‘not well designed to serve the needs of the Federal Government or the interests of the American taxpayer’.

“Apparently the Pentagon didn’t get the word and has handed the president a \$35 billion sole-source hot-potato, under circumstances that are highly suspect. The president must now intervene to protect the interests of the taxpayer and the men and women of our military.”